

Letter from SFRC member due 1/AF - **L40A**

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. President:

RELEASED IN FULL

We are writing to you concerning the ongoing genocide in Rwanda.

For over two months, extremist Hutu militia and other forces have been carrying out a methodical campaign of mass murder against moderate Hutus and all Tutsis in Rwanda. Reliable -- indeed, uncontradicted -- reports prove that this is, in fact, a planned campaign of genocide. The first wave of systematic murders was carried out within hours of the pretext created by the death of President Habyarimana. The campaign has continued unabated and today bulldozed mass graves as well as unburied victims cover the Rwandan countryside and bodies literally pour over waterfalls on Rwanda's borders.

We are mindful of the steps your Administration has already taken, the difficulties posed by this crisis and the many challenges around the world which already demand United States leadership. We are also very much aware that the funds needed to act are in short supply.

Nonetheless, we believe that the ongoing genocide in Rwanda justifies -- indeed, requires -- an urgent response pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Parties to the Convention are committed to "prevent" further genocide and to "punish" those who have committed this crime. Hundreds of thousands of lives still hang in the balance.

We can begin by acknowledging that this is, in fact, genocide. And acting accordingly. Even in a world grown weary from repeated atrocities, Rwanda stands out. There is a distinct legal structure created after Nuremberg to deal with genocide. We urge you to act immediately in conjunction with other states to end the ongoing genocide and to begin the process of identifying and bringing to justice those who have planned and carried out this crime. We would also urge you to consider whether the remnants of the Rwandan government which helped perpetrate these massacres is legally entitled to control Rwanda's seat at the United Nations, including its present seat on the Security Council.

Finally, we urge you to act in conjunction with other nations to address the looming crisis of refugees from Rwanda which has the potential to destabilize the region and result in massive loss of life independent of the killings within Rwanda itself.

Sincerely,